



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

MEN HARBORING DRUGGED CHILDREN INDICTED

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on October 14, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a one count indictment against Antonio Gonzalez-Garduno DOB 7/29/73 and Sergio Martinez-Ramirez DOB 4/30/81, both of whom are citizens of Mexico. This case first came to light on September 30, 2003 when the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement received a tip that two children had been drugged and smuggled into the United States. On that date, two children, ages two and five, were found in an apartment at 2501 E. Illini Street, Phoenix, AZ along with nine adult undocumented aliens and the two defendants.

The indictment alleges that on September 30, 2003, the defendants intentionally harbored undocumented for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain.

The federal indictment charges both GONZALEZ-GARDUNO and MARTINEZ-RAMIREZ with violating Title 8 of the United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and (a)(1)(B)(i).

A conviction for harboring undocumented aliens carries a maximum penalty of 10 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

(MORE)

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The prosecution is being handled by Lisa Jennis Settel, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1055-PHX-MHM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-182

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